

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
THE MEDICAL SCHOOL
MINNEAPOLIS 14

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY

October 19, 1959

Professor Joshua Lederberg
Department of Medical Genetics
Medical School, Stanford University
Palo Alto, California

Dear Josh:

I received your card after getting back from the meetings. I was unable to take the family as it turned out, and I wound up flying directly to Los Angeles and back.

I am writing this for two reasons: first, to try to get you out to Minneapolis; and second, to discuss the ideas we talked over when I saw you at Madison. Our reasons for inviting you to come to Minneapolis are two fold: first, we are having a series of seminars on genetics in neurology. I am sure this is a topic you are not particularly interested in but we can use it as an excuse for inviting you out here, paying your transportation, and we probably will be able to furnish transportation for Esther as well. This may mean asking Esther to give a brief discussion of some of your work in order to satisfy the legal requirements of the grants, I have spoken to Galen Bradley about trying to get you to come, and he has given me some idea of your problems in scheduling. He has stated that his department would also be happy to furnish something in the way of financial recompense if you decide to make such a trip. The formal part of this would consist of giving a one to two hour discussion on a Thursday evening of any topic you might feel to be appropriate for a group of neurologists without much background in genetics. Our informal reasons for inviting you out are several: Frank Morrell, one of the members of our department, has been working on RNA and alterations of RNA content of individual nerve cells during conditioning. He feels that this may be important in that he believes he has demonstrated changes of RNA content of cells which have been conditioned in contrast to those which have not, and he has been interested in exchanging ideas with you about this. I have been spending most of my spare time recently working on cerebral blood flow, and I will soon have an article ready of which I shall send you a copy when I have finished.

The details of the seminars are as follows: They are usually held on the last Thursday of each month from 7 P.M. to 8 P.M. We could arrange to put you up for that evening and as many other evenings as you care to spend in Minneapolis before or after that time. Our schedule is flexible enough so that if you are available on any Thursday other than the last Thursday of the month, we could move our meeting forward or back to make this possible. Our meetings will run until June, and we could arrange to hear you on any month that you care to come. If you are at all interested or wish to use this as a means of financing a trip to Minneapolis for any other reason, we would be happy to take care of the financial and practical aspects of the trip for both you and Esther.

I thought I should also take care of the brief note which I promised you in regard to the work we are doing on stereotaxic surgery for the treatment of abnormal involuntary movements. As you recall, we discussed the problems of adequate localization of the coagulating needle and the fact that we have been having

complications because the globus pallidus and anterolateral thalamic nucleus are both located so close to the internal capsule. We have found that lesions in either of these two areas are useful in controlling both rigidity and tremor in patients with Parkinsons disease. In discussing this problem with you, you made the suggestion that there might be a poison which would act specifically on a nuclear masses without acting on nerve fibers per se. Thus any injection of this material into one of the nuclei would destroy this nucleus without damaging the large fiber tracts which are immediately adjacent to it. I have looked about for poisons of this sort and have been unable to find any that would adequately discriminate between cell body and nerve fiber per se. You might at least try tossing this idea out at one of your brain storming sessions in Buffalo to see if any one else knows anything that might be applied. Our own approach has been one of further investigation of electrical stimulation and we believe this to be a bit more refined than what we have used in the past. We are also considering switching the site of our lesions from globus pallidus to fields of Forel which would consist of a group of fiber tracts rather than a nuclear mass. This work is coming along slowly but we feel we are making progress in it.

I have had a few publications since I saw you last. These are pretty much straight forward studies on changes in the blood vessel along the base of the brain in relation to aging. I haven't sent you any copies as it is pretty much a straight forward pathologic study. I will send you the papers we are working on at present in regard to cerebral blood flow studies with dye dilution techniques which I think is a bit more original research. I would be happy to have your comments about this when you get it.

Please send my best regards to Esther. The fourth addition to the family has just arrived (one-half hour ago). This time it's a boy!

Sincerely,

Tony
Tony

A. M. Iannone, M.D.

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